

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 25, 2005, wherein a restriction requirement was made between Group I (claim 13) directed toward a product of a magnetic head, and Group II (claims 1-12 and 14-16) directed toward a process of making a magnetic head. Group II was further divided into the following sub-groups: II-1 (claims 3, 5 and 6) directed toward a subcombination feature of thinning a hard mask during removal of a portion of the sensor; II-2 (claims 9 and 14) directed toward a subcombination feature of dry etching a portion of the sensor; and II-3 (claims 4, 15 and 16) directed toward a subcombination feature of forming a first half gap of the magnetic head.

Election

With this Amendment, an election of the Group II claims (claims 1-12 and 14-16) is made, and an election of the Group II-3 claims (claims 4, 15 and 16) is made. Claims 13 has been canceled.

As noted by the Examiner, claims 1, 2 and 8 link the inventions of Groups II-1 through II-3. (*See* Office Action 11/25/05 at p. 3, ¶ 7.) Upon allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claims will be entitled to examination in the instant application. (*See id.* at pp. 3-4, ¶ 7.) As such, examination is requested of all pending claims 1-12, and 14-16.

Claim 15

Claim 15 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

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CONCLUSION

With this Amendment, pending claims 1-12 and 14-16 are properly presented for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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